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# Congress of the United States

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March 10, 2006

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Chris B. Pascal  
Director  
Office of Research Integrity  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Office of Research Integrity  
1101 Wootton Parkway, Suite 750  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Re: Subcommittee Hearing, "Human Cloning and Embryonic Stem Cell Research after  
Seoul: Examining exploitation, fraud and ethical problems in the research"

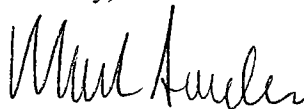
Dear Mr. Pascal:

Thank you very much for your testimony on March 7, 2006 before the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources. Due to the limited amount of time available for the hearing, however, we were unable to address all of the issues involved. To better help the Subcommittee understand these significant issues, we are submitting to you the attached list of questions for the record.

In order to help the Subcommittee move forward with its work on this subject, we request that you respond to these questions in writing no later than the close of business on Friday, April 7, 2006. Your answers will be included in the written record.

Thank you very much for your time and assistance. If you have any questions, you may have a member of your staff contact Malia Holst at 202-225-2577.

Sincerely,



Mark E. Souder  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Criminal Justice,  
Drug Policy and Human Resources

1. It appears that a large grant to University of Pittsburgh researcher Gerald Schatten was made with at least some consideration of what was still thought to be successful Korean research, in that the Korean research is mentioned several times in Schatten's grant application.

- *What is the process for revisiting federal grant awards when they appear to be based upon questionable or fraudulent claims?*
- *Is ORI in any way reviewing the grants made to Schatten at the University of Pittsburgh?*

2. You mentioned in your written testimony that when fraud is suspected, an investigation is initiated and conducted at the grantee institution, which must report to ORI when they decide to proceed with a formal investigation, or when admissions are made by accused researchers. This seems to present a conflict of interest for the grantee institution, which investigates one of its own.

- *Are there any meaningful safeguards in the process to ensure that grantee institutions aren't whitewashing or outright ignoring scientific misconduct when they are acting as the first level of investigation into potential fraud?*